



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - July 22, 2003

- ***In the West***, showers associated with the summer rainy season are providing limited drought relief from the ***Great Basin southward***. Meanwhile in the ***Northwest***, hot, dry weather continues to stress dryland summer crops.
- ***On the Plains***, cooler air is gradually overspreading the majority of the region, easing stress on pastures and reproductive summer crops. In addition, beneficial showers are scattered along the leading edge of cooler air across ***Kansas*** and ***Oklahoma***. However, hot weather persists across ***Texas*** and on the ***Montana High Plains***, resulting in varying degrees of stress on summer crops.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, isolated showers linger in the ***lower Great Lakes States***, while cool air favors reproductive corn and soybeans across the entire region. Today's highs are forecast to remain below 80 degrees F.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms are sweeping into the ***Delta***, maintaining generally favorable soil moisture levels for immature summer crops. Elsewhere, warm weather and isolated showers favor crop development.

Outlook: An unusual southward displacement of the jet stream over the ***central and eastern U.S.*** will provide cool, unsettled weather to the ***Corn Belt*** and maintain the threat of locally heavy rain and potentially severe thunderstorms across the ***eastern one-third of the Nation***. In the ***West***, a broad area of high pressure will provide hot, mostly dry conditions to the ***Rockies, Great Basin, and Pacific Coast States***, although monsoon shower activity will persist in parts of the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 27-31 calls for above-normal temperatures to persist across the ***northern Plains*** and much of the ***West***. In contrast, cooler- and wetter-than-normal weather is likely from the ***central and southern Plains into the East***. Meanwhile, some drought relief is possible in the ***West***, where near- to above-normal rainfall is expected. However, below-normal precipitation is forecast along the ***Nation's northern tier from northern Washington to Lake Superior***.

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